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Anson County Board of Commissioners Meet October 8

The next regular meeting of the Anson County Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Monday, October 8 at 6 p.m. The meetings take place in the Board Room, Suite 209, of the Anson County Government Center which is located at 101 South Greene Street in uptown Wadesboro. To schedule an appearance at a board meeting, please sign up prior to the meeting. Information is available at 704-994-3201.

Board of Elections Meets Today

The Anson County Board of Elections meets today, Wednesday, October 3 at 11 a.m. for logic and accuracy testing of voting machines. This testing is in preparation for the upcoming election on November 6. The agenda for the meeting is:

- Call to Order/Invocation
- Explanation of logic and accuracy testing
- Testing
- Testing results
- Questions, comments and other matters
- Upcoming dates review

The meeting will take place in the Boardroom at the Board of Elections office, located at 402 Morven Road in Wadesboro. To appear on a meeting agenda you must provide notice in writing by 5 p.m. on the Thursday before the next meeting. During all board meetings, those in attendance are asked to refrain from comments and questions to the board unless they are called upon by the board. At the end of each meeting the board will open the floor for comments and questions. For more information call 704-994-3223.

Thursday is Pesticide Collection Day

Citizens are invited to bring their unwanted pesticides to the Anson Farmers Market this Thursday, October 4, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for safe and proper disposal. Disposing of these dangerous chemicals in this way is safer for humans and animals, and environmentally friendly. The Farmers Market is located at 1736 Highway 52 South in Wadesboro, next door to Cobb-Vantress and Wadesboro Primary School. Please save product labels, as unknown materials cannot be accepted. For pressurized pesticide gas cylinders or containers greater than 5 gallons call the Anson Extension office at 704-694-2415.

Anson 74 Rail Park Begins a New Chapter for Industrial Development in Anson County

Elected officials and community and civic leaders gathered recently for the dedication of the Anson 74 Rail Park, the Charlotte region's newest rail-served industrial development. Situated on 140 acres of prime land between two U.S. highways and featuring a spur off the CSX "Queen City Express" line, the park recently completed Duke Energy's Site Readiness program and is attracting interest from companies for its outstanding location and existing rail infrastructure. Based on the Duke study, the park could one day support nearly one million square feet of light industrial and warehouse space and provide jobs for more than 400 employees. The park's proximity to existing retail development also creates opportunities for future mixed-use residential and commercial growth along the nearby U.S. Highway 74 corridor. "The completion of the site readiness plan is a major step forward for the park and for industrial development in Anson County in general," commented AnsonEDP Executive Director John B. Marek. "While many communities have rail-served sites available, very few have planned sites in a business park setting with access to two major highways and an existing rail spur and transload facility." It's that existing rail infrastructure that makes the Anson 74 Rail Park attractive, according to Marek. Businesses that require rail can opt to either extend the spur to their own building or use the park's transload capability on a contract basis, opening access to rail for companies who do not want to implement their own fixed rail capability. The Duke Energy Site Readiness program provides technical assistance to communities for the development of "shovel-ready" industrial sites in areas the company serves. Duke contracts with professional developers and engineers to create a plan for the "best and highest use" of those sites. North Carolina's Southeast (NCSE), an 18-county regional economic development group to which Anson County belongs, assisted AnsonEDP in the production of a marketing video for the site and has been a key source of leads to companies who might have an interest in locating in the park. "The State of North Carolina has invested more than \$200 million in improvements at the Port of Wilmington, making the rail link between the port and Charlotte a prime corridor for locating national and international business operations," noted Steve Yost, NCSE president. "The Anson 74 Rail Park is well situated to capitalize on that growth potential." Carolinas ReLoad, the company which operates the on-site transload facility, has invested more than \$400,000 since 2013 in expanding and improving its capabilities, including a new 60-foot, 25 ton gantry crane which was installed in July and allows for faster loading and unloading of freight.



The First Lady of North Carolina Visits the HOLLA! Center

Kristin Cooper, wife of Governor Roy Cooper and the First Lady of North Carolina, visited the HOLLA! Center in Morven on Thursday, September 27. She was welcomed by students of the HOLLA! After School Program as well as students and officials from the Anson County school system including Deborah Davis and Danielle Hutcherson-Blount. After being briefed with information concerning HOLLA!'s involvement with Anson High School's YCC Program, Anson Middle School and HOLLA!'s Youth Enrichment Program, she was escorted on a tour of the facility. "This is amazing," she said. "My hope is that through a partnership with the governor's office we can more effectively exemplify, support and enhance the First Lady's noble platform of championing initiatives, organizations and people who are working to create a safe, nurturing, healthy environment for children and their families," said Leon Gatewood, CEO and Founder of HOLLA! HOLLA! (Helping Our Loved ones Learn and Achieve) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 2005 to offer support to the Anson County school system. Founded by Leon Gatewood of Wadesboro, HOLLA! has received a total of \$500,000 to renovate its community center and address childhood obesity. The community center features a media center, a literary cafe, a commercial kitchen, a tennis court and a reading room, and hosts afterschool and summer youth programs. "HOLLA! is doing a great job supporting our schools," said Deborah Davis. "We owe the success of the mentoring requirement of the YCC program to HOLLA! and the amazing group of volunteers supporting the group." For more information about HOLLA! and to find ways to support the organization, go to www.HOLLA.ws.

The Play *Our Town* Opens at the Ansonia

The Ansonia Theatre in Wadesboro is preparing for its 2018-19 season kickoff with the opening of the Pulitzer Prize winning play *Our Town*, written by Thornton Wilder. This drama tells the story of a fictional small town called Grover's Corners located in New Hampshire in the early 1900's, and follows it's citizens over the course of 12 years. The play's central plot revolves around two families: the Webbs and the Gibbs, and the love story that unfolds between two of their children, Emily and George. This classic show has been lauded by many to be the great American play. If you think you're familiar with *Our Town*, chances are you read it in sixth or seventh grade, at an age where you couldn't fully appreciate how enriching a piece it is. Revisit these characters and you will be mesmerized by its subversive power, warmed by its wisdom and shattered by its ending. The Ansonia's production is being directed by Tommy Wooten and features a cast from four different counties. The role of the Stage Manager, who narrates the show, is played by stage veteran Robert Graves. The Gibbs family is led by Chip Long, Carolyn Munn, Carson Traywick and Mia Franco. The Webb family is played by Glenn Caulder, Teri Brown, Amanda Moss and Tyson Leavitt. The rest of the townsfolk are portrayed by Mike Phillips, Cheryl Carpenter Stewart, Douglas Kleeves, Caden Clarke, Ann Crescitelli, Isaac Clarke, Sarah Kalish, Alex Hill and Tommy Wooten. The show runs two weekends, October 12-21. Fridays and Saturday performances are at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees are at 3 p.m. Season tickets are on sale now! Call the Anson County Arts Council at 704-694-4950 or visit ansoniatheatre.com.



Parks and Recreation Basketball Registration

This winter Anson County Parks and Recreation is offering the following sports:

- Micro Basketball ages 3-5
- Youth Basketball grades K-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-9, and 10-12.

Registration is open, and runs through Friday, October 12. You can register at the Parks and Recreation office, located at Little Park (845 Airport Road in Wadesboro), Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. or you can visit their website at www.co.anson.nc.us and fill out a registration form and send it by email or text. Registration will also take place at the following schools from 4 to 6 p.m.:

- Monday, October 8 - Wadesboro Elementary & Peachland-Polkton Elementary
- Tuesday, October 9 - Ansonville Elementary & Morven Elementary
- Wednesday, October 10 - Wadesboro Primary & Lilesville Elementary

Registration will take place at Wadesboro Walmart on Thursday, October 11, from 5 to 7 p.m. For more information call 704-694-5751.

Bingo at Grace Senior Center

Bingo games are held every second Tuesday of the month at Grace Senior Center at 11:30 a.m. All seniors are invited to attend for fun and fellowship. There is not cost, but you must be 55 or older to play. For more information or to register to play call the center at 704-694-6616. Grace Senior Center is located at 199 Highway 742 South in Wadesboro, just past IGA.

Boat Landing at Plank Road Suffered Damage

The Carolina Thread Trail boat landing at Plank Road suffered damage during Hurricane Florence. Anson County Parks and Recreation is currently working to make repairs to reopen in about month from now. "We appreciate your patience during this time," said Wendell Small, Aquatic / Athletic Program Supervisor at Parks 7 Rec. "When the boat landing reopens, we will be on our winter schedule. Gates will open at 8:30 a.m. and close at 5:00 p.m." For more information contact Jeff Waisner at 704-695-2550, Wendell Small at 704-695-2782 or Allen Jackson at 704-694-5751.

McLeod Health Breast Cancer Brunch & Learn

Early detection of breast cancer is key

McLeod Health will hold two Brunch & Learn events to help educate attendees about breast cancer. One event will be held at the Marian Wright Edelman Public Library in Bennettsville, SC on Wednesday, October 17 at 10 a.m. The other event will be held at the Matheson Public Library in Cheraw, SC on Friday, October 19 at 10 a.m. Each year, more than 200,000 women in the United States are expected to be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer, and nearly 40,000 women will die from the disease. Early detection and effective treatment for breast cancer have been shown to improve survival. Join McLeod Health for an educational talk on breast cancer, risk factors and prevention. Please call McLeod Reservations & Scheduling at (843) 777-2095 to reserve your seat. More information is available at McLeodHealth.org.